

[Rollcall Vote No. 52 Leg.]

YEAS—55

Akaka	Gillibrand	Murray
Baucus	Hagan	Nelson (NE)
Begich	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Bennet	Heller	Pryor
Bingaman	Inouye	Reed
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kerry	Rockefeller
Brown (MA)	Klobuchar	Schumer
Brown (OH)	Kohl	Shaheen
Cantwell	Landrieu	Stabenow
Cardin	Lautenberg	Tester
Carper	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Casey	Levin	Udall (NM)
Collins	Lieberman	Warner
Conrad	Manchin	Webb
Coons	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Durbin	Menendez	Wyden
Feinstein	Merkley	
Franken	Mikulski	

NAYS—44

Alexander	Graham	Murkowski
Ayotte	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Hatch	Portman
Blunt	Hoeven	Risch
Boozman	Hutchison	Roberts
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Chambliss	Isakson	Sanders
Coats	Johanns	Sessions
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cochran	Kyl	Snowe
Corker	Lee	Thune
Cornyn	Lugar	Toomey
Crapo	McCain	Vitter
DeMint	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	

NOT VOTING—1

Kirk

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 44. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, for my Members, we are going to have a conference at 5:15 in the LBJ Room. I have spoken to the Republican leader. We will have no more votes tonight. We will determine a time in the morning to have the next vote or votes. We will move on from there. So, again, I say to my Senators, 5:15 in the LBJ Room.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KEITH RHEAULT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Dr. Keith Rheault has dedicated his entire career to education, including serving in the Nevada education system for more than 26 years. At the end of this month, Dr. Rheault is retiring from his current position as the Nevada Superintendent of Public Instruction. Today, I am proud to recognize him for his service and his commitment to improving the lives of Nevada's children through education.

As superintendent, Dr. Rheault has been responsible for a school system that educates more than 400,000 students in some of the most diverse

school districts in the country. In this capacity, Dr. Rheault has developed a unique understanding of the challenges facing Nevada's districts and schools. Over his 8 years as superintendent, he has helped lead several statewide educational initiatives and has worked hard to ensure that Nevada students are prepared to compete in the global economy.

Most recently, Nevada was one of only six States to be awarded a \$71 million, 5-year competitive grant through the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Program to improve the literacy skills of Nevada students, including students with disabilities and limited English proficiency. In addition, Dr. Rheault oversaw the Nevada Pathway to 21st Century Learning, a statewide professional development program dedicated to helping Nevada teachers successfully integrate and utilize technology in their classrooms.

Nevadans are fortunate to have had the educational leadership of Dr. Rheault. I join with students, teachers, and administrators from across the State in thanking him for his dedication and service. It has been a pleasure to work with Dr. Rheault over the years, and I wish him and his family the best as he begins this next phase of his life.

RETIREMENT OF BRIAN LAMB

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, as my colleagues know, Brian Lamb, the founder and CEO of C-SPAN, recently announced his decision to retire.

Brian Lamb is a broadcasting legend who made the workings of our government accessible and transparent to every American through C-SPAN, the nonprofit cable network he founded 33 years ago. I have had the privilege of knowing Brian for many years, and there are many people across the country who still believe we were separated at birth.

More seriously, Brian's unquestioned integrity and profound commitment to making government accountable to the people have made a lasting contribution to our democracy. The American people owe Brian Lamb a debt of gratitude, and we wish him all the best in this new chapter of his remarkable career.

DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT

Mr. LEAHY. I am moved today to talk about Frances Herbert and Takako Ueda of Dummerston, VT. This loving couple is legally married under the laws of Vermont. Yet, like many Americans, they are being hurt by the Defense of Marriage Act despite the protections provided them under the laws of the State in which they live. Ms. Ueda is a Japanese citizen. Recently, her petition to become a lawful permanent resident of the United States, as the lawful spouse of a United States citizen, was denied for the sole reason that she and her lawful spouse

happen to be of the same gender. This case underscores not only the harm that current Federal law causes to same sex couples, but the additional hardship placed upon same sex binational couples whose marriages are not recognized as the foundation of a spousal-based green card petition.

Last summer, I chaired a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee to examine the impact of the Defense of Marriage Act. We heard from many different witnesses about how this Federal law has singled them and their families out and made them less secure than other families protected under State law. That historic hearing reflected steady progress toward a better understanding of the way in which that law hurts Americans and their loved ones. I have experienced profound change in my own views. I voted for the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996. And today I will not hesitate to acknowledge that my views have changed for the better. My own transformation came in part from the State of Vermont's drive towards greater equality for Vermonters. The Vermont Supreme Court's opinion in the landmark case of *Baker v. State* first gave rise to legislatively-enacted civil unions in Vermont. In *Baker v. State*, then-Chief Justice Jeffery Amestoy wrote that the court's decision was grounded in Vermont's constitution and was "a recognition of our common humanity." A few years later, the Vermont legislature voted to provide full marriage equality. And other States have now followed this march toward equality for all committed couples.

Our common humanity is what my friend Congressman JOHN LEWIS was describing when he spoke in opposition to the Defense of Marriage Act on the floor of the House of Representatives in 1996, and what he has continued to fight for and protect for so many years. Congressman LEWIS saw this law for what it was with a clarity and conviction that I greatly admire. Congressman LEWIS wrote in 2003 that we must have "not just civil rights for some but civil rights for all." He was speaking of the rights of gay and lesbian Americans. I could not agree more.

Our common humanity is what binds us together. It is what moves neighbors to help neighbors without regard to politics or ideology, and without judgment. It is what inspired the extraordinary generosity and giving spirit of Vermonters who helped each other following the devastation of Hurricane Irene, and which I and my family witnessed all over Vermont. I can think of few things more worthy of protection and respect than the universal bond that human beings form with each other.

Despite Vermont's exercise of its sovereignty and the legislature's expression of the will of the people of Vermont, the Defense of Marriage Act stands as an obstacle to the full realization of the promise Vermont made to its citizens—just as it does to the